

The story of Chi Si Chen (Autumn Silver Reed) as told by Draenimaullair

Chapter 133: Half in Control (3rd ride of Mirtul 1371 - Feast of Lanterns)

Perhaps it was because last night had been so eventful, but I slept like a wyrm. When I woke the room was empty, but small bowl of my favorite food was standing nearby, and beautifully placed, a single black orchid on my companions cushion. I fluttered (finches fall more than they actually fly) towards the main room where I saw my companion read in some books. From where I sat I could see at least five men staring at her, their moves mirroring hers. I couldn't really fault them, as I too felt the magic radiating from her. Ah I understood why daddy had selected her: she was the most magical of this group. The halfelvin Felina sat close, although she radiated relaxed wariness. One might surprise my companion Reed, but not her. The halfling wasn't present, likely taking thorough care of business, but the demon human was quietly eating his breakfast. I saw his hand touch his sword, as if to ascertain it was still present. Actually, as he sat there I wondered why I worried so much? If I had not known he was there I would have hardly noticed him. Not the elf. Him I noticed. Like a storm on the horizon.

As I considered why Mummy would allow one of them to be part of my entourage, commotion at the entrance required my attention. A loose bull... No. The elf's bear-in-disguise. Why didn't anybody else recognize it as such? I had to admit that for a bear he did a quite nice impersonation, but couldn't they smell the illusion magic? Humans were so limited. The bear gestured for the elf to come and the others walked along. Nobody blocked their path (not the elf anyway), and nobody asked. I flew to my companion and she stroked my feathers as I landed on her finger. Many men looked envious. I was sorry but they just weren't up to being a dragon. In the stable we found Rock, the dwarven paladin's companion. It beckoned us to follow, so we did, to outside the city where we found the dwarf trying to help some tiger clothed human on a hunting lizard. It looked at me as if I was a snack, so I just focused my eye on it, even as my companion befriended it. The halfelvin made sure it was stabled outside of the city, and we returned to the inn, where the halfling waited.

Unusually, the dwarf found it necessary to berate the group for hiding their true intentions. Wasn't the halfelf leader of this motley group? Any dragon knew that it was foolish to show ones true self to everybody. Those worthy, yes surely, but not all, and especially not those evil creatures that tried to destroy law and goodness. The demon human had his own way of trying to get the dwarf to agree, but it was the halfling who explained that this was the proper way. I rather liked him, yet I still felt that something was off. Something grated, and I couldn't put my claw on it. How aggravating. Perhaps it was the fact that they let this... wild person join my limited entourage. Had they got no sense of decorum? I was not informed, although, of course, it would be rather crude to say no to a stranger in need.

Seeing that the best path to recognition was by showing our general strength without showing our specific strengths, the dwarf decided to join the elf in the official archery contest that will be held in two days. I didn't know the elf was going to join it, but clearly he was. The demon human pestered my companion in joining the unarmed games. What a unlikable fellow, but the training in fighting using only ones own body must be good even for humans. The dwarf decided to also enter that contest, so he at least showed some interest in the true art. The elf returned telling that he seen a nice bow but that he was lacking funds. My companion nodded and bought it with a flair in negotiating that left the seller befuddled. I was sure he would inform all his acquaintances about her, warning them off. The demon human and this new human warrior were going to enter the melee combat. That bear of the elf is more sure of himself inside a city than that... savage. I better let the matter sort itself.

Evening was drawing close and my companion selected her dress with utmost care while she shifted headdress from the usual simple hat to fetching jade and gold. A servant walked by, looking with envy at it, but turned away resigned. It was good to know that some humans understood that some possessions were limited to those worthy carrying them.